

## Message Text

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R 081620Z JUL 76  
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN  
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 6221

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - OMISSION PARA 5 LINES 7 & 8

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS:  
SUBJECT: FRENCH AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH HONECKER

1. BERNARD DE CHALVRON, AMBASSADOR OF FRANCE TO THE GDR,  
INVITED ME TO MEET WITH HIM AT THE FRENCH EMBASSY  
ON THURSDAY , JULY 8 AT 11:00A.M. IN  
COMPANY WITH THE AMBASSADOR OF GREAT BRITAIN AND PERM  
REP OF THE FRG TO THE GDR, GUNTER GAUS, TO TELL US OF  
HIS MEETING WITH ERICH HONECKER, GENERAL SECRETARY OF  
THE SED.

2. WE MET AT THE FRENCH EMBASSY. PRESENT WERE CHALVRON,  
GAUS, AND MISS C.E. PESTELL, OF THE BRITISH EMBASSY  
( AMBASSADOR CRADDOCK BEING ON LEAVE), MYSELF AND AN  
INTERPRETER OF THE FRENCH EMBASSY WHO SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH.

3. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR WHO IS LEAVING IN A FEW DAYS,  
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SAID THAT HE WANTED TO TELL US OF HIS MEETING, AS GUAS  
AND I HAD INFORMED HIM OF OUR MEETINGS WITH HONECKER;  
THAT HE WAS NOT REPORTING THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS MEETING  
TO ANY OTHER AMBASSADORS EXCEPT TO SAY THAT THE ARTICLE

REPORTING HIS VISIT, WHICH APPEARED IN THE GDR NEWSPAPERS,  
WAS INCORRECT.

4. CHALVRON SAID THE MEETING WAS SURPRISE IN AMNY  
RESPECTS. FIRST, HAD NOT BEEN RECEIVED BY HONECKER  
UNTIL A FEW DAYS BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE, AND THE NEWSPAOER  
ARTICLE DID NOT REFLECT THEIR CONVERSATION, ANDTHE CONTENT  
OF THEIR TALK WAS SURPRISING TO HIM.  
BILATERAL FRENCH-GDR RELATIONS

5. CHALVRON SAID THAT HONECKER STATED THAT FRENCH-GDR  
RELATIONS WERE NOT VERY GOOD, WHILE HE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE  
STATED THAT THEY HAD AGREED THAT RELATIONS WERE PROCEEDING  
ON A GOOD BASIS. HONECKER THEN BEGAN A DISSERATION ON  
THE INDEPENDENCE OF SOVEREIGN NATIONS. HE COULD NOT UNDER-  
STAND WHY FRANCE WOULD BE INFLUENCED BY OTHER COUNTRIES,  
MENTIONING ONLY THE FRG, IN ITS FAILURE TO AGREE TO A  
CONSULAR CONVENTION, PARTICULARLY AS GREAT BRITAIN HAD  
SO AGREED. CHALVRON DID NOT MENTION HIS RESPONSE TO  
HONECKER, BUT LATER TOLD US THAT FRANCE WAS HOLDING  
FIRMLY TO ITS POSITION THAT ADEFINITION OF " NATIONALITY"  
WOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN ANY CONSULAR CONVENTION,  
ALTHOUGH ANOTHER ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS WAS SCHEDULED  
TO COMMENCE IN AUGUST. CHALVRON SAID THAT THEN TO HIS  
SURPRISE HONECKER SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO EXPLAIN  
HIS DEEP BELIEF IN COMMUNISM. AS AN ANTI-FASCIST HE  
HAD BEEN IMPRISONED FOR SEVERAL YEARS, BEFORE ANDDURING  
WORLD WAR II, BY THE GERMAN FASCISTS WHOM HE HAD  
OPPOSED; ALSO THAT HIS " CONVERSION" TO COMMUNISM HAD  
BEEN INFLUENCED BY HIS FATHER , A MINER, WHO HAD BEEN A  
MEMBER OF THE LEFT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY. THEN,  
ACCORDING TO CHALVRON, HONECKER SAID" YOU WERE AN  
ANTI-FASCIST; YOU ARE A SOCIALIST; WHY HAVEN'T YOU  
PROCEEDED TOWARD COMMUNISM? FURTHER, BEFORE YOU LEAVE  
WOULD LIKE O VISIT BUCHENWALD AGAIN AND PAY SOME  
MEMORIAL TO ITS INAMTES;" CHALVRON RESPONDED"NO, I  
DO NOT WANT TO VISIT BUCHENWALD AGAIN, AND I DO NOT  
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KNWO THAT I AM A SOCIALIST."( NOE: CHALVRON WAS A  
PRISONER AT BUCHENWALD FOR SEVERAL YEARS DURING THE WAR.)

6. CHALVRON SAID TO US THAT IF HONECKER CONSIDRED HE  
HAD AN AFFINITY WITH HIM AS AN ANTI-FASCIST, HE COULD  
NOT UNDERSAND WHY HONECKER WAITED UNTIL HIS IMPENDING  
DEPARTURE TO SEE HIM. HE HAD ASKEDTO SEE HONECKER UPON  
HIS ARRIVAL IN THE GDR AND NEVER RECEIVING ANINVITATION,  
HE HAD NEVER MADE A SECOND REQUEST. A FEW WEEK AGO HE  
HAD BEEN TOLD BY HONECKER'S CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, HONECKER  
WANTED TO SE HIM " EYE TO EYE" ON A DATE A WEEK BEFORE  
THE ACTUAL DAY OF THEIR MEETING.THE PROTOCOL OFFICER  
HAD ASKED HIM TO KEEP THE MEETINGSECRET. CHALVRON MUSED

IF THERE WAS SUCH GREAT INSISTENCE ON SECRECY, HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND THE PUBLICITY GIVEN TO THE MEETING ONE WEEK LATER.

7. AS CHALVRON HAD NO IDEA HOW LONG THE MEETING WOULD LAST, HE SUBMITTED TO HONECKER LISTS OF SIX HUMANITARIAN CASES, ONE IN FRENCH AND ONE IN GERMAN WHICH HIS EMBASSY STAFF HAD PREPARED AS THOSE OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE. THREE WERE TO PERMIT MARRIAGES AND THREE, WHILE NOT ACTUAL HUMANITARIAN CASES, WERE REQUESTS TO PERMIT FRENCH CITIZENS DOING BUSINESS IN THE GDR TO TRAVEL TO AND FROM THE GDR TO FRANCE WITHOUT BEING HELD UP WITH GREAT DELAY AT CHECK POINTS. HE SAID HONECKER IMMEDIATELY WROTE ON THE GERMAN LANGUAGE LIST A NOTE TO FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER TELLING HIM TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO SETTLE THESE CASES AT ONCE AND SHOWED THE NOTE TO HIM. THE CASES HAVE BEEN RESOLVED.

EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS

8. HONECKER THEN ASKED CHALVRON, "WHAT DID YOU THINK OF ECPC?" CHALVRON RESPONDED THAT THE SPEECHS OF THE EASTERN EUROPEAN AND SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES WERE NOT SURPRISING AS THEY REPRESENTED KNOWN GOVERNMENT VIEWS, AND THIS HIS CHIEF INTEREST HAD BEEN IN THE SPEECHS OF COMMUNISTS FROM WESTERN EUROPE WHO WERE NOT MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THEIR COUNTRIES. HONECKER ASKED HIM IF HE DID NOT AGREE THAT THE SPEECHS WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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OF BELINGUER OF ITALY, CARILLO OF SPAIN AND MARCHAIS OF FRANCE WERE THE MOST INTERESTING. CHALVRON SAID HE THOUGHT THEY WERE INTERESTING. HONECKER SAID TO CHALVRON THAT CARILLO OF SPAIN WAS NOT SO IMPORTANT AS THE COMMUNIST PARTY WOULD NOT COME INTO THE GOVERNMENT IN SPAIN, BELINGUER OF ITALY WAS IMPORTANT BECAUSE THE COMMUNIST PARTY COULD COME IN TO THE GOVERNMENT, BUT THAT BELINGUER'S SPEECH WAS DAMAGING TO THE TRUE IDEOLOGY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY. HONECKER THEN SAID THAT MARCHAIS WAS AN UNIMPORTANT PERSONAGE BUT THAT A POSSIBLE UNION OF MITTERAND AND MARCHAIS, FOR ELECTORAL PURPOSES, WOULD ACTUALLY DAMAGE THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN FRANCE AS IT COULD MOVE TOWARD THE "RIGHTIST" VIEWS OF MITTERAND.

9. IN CLOSING, HONECKER TOLD CHALVRON THAT HE AND THE MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SED HEDL CHALVRON IN THE HIGHEST REGARD AND REGRETTED TO SEE HIM LEAVE AS AMBASSADOR. CHALVRON SAID TO US, "I AM HELD IN SUCH HIGH REGARD I STILL WONDER WHY HONECKER HAS REFUSED TO SEE ME AND ALSO WE HAVE HAD VERY FEW CONTACTS WITH HIGH GDR OFFICIALS."

10. CHALVRON TOLD US THAT HE HAD CALLED ON HORST SINDERMANN BEFORE SEEING HONECKER. SINDERMANN HAD TOLD HIM THAT FRENCH/GDR RELATIONS WERE NOT GOOD AND INFORMED HIM THAT THE GDR WOULD NOT ENTER INTO A CULTURAL AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE UNTIL IT HAD SATISFIED THE GDR REGARDING THE CONSULAR CONVENTION, CHALVRON TOLD SINDERMANN THAT FRANCE WOULD NOT ACCEPT SUCH CONDITIONS.

11. CHALVRON THEN ASKED THE THREE OF US "WHY DID HONECKER SEE ME AT THIS LATE DATE AND WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE THE MEANING OF HIS TALK?" GAUS SUGGESTED THAT HONECKER WITH HIS STRONG ANTI-FASCIST, COMMUNIST VIEWS, GROWING IN PART FROM HIS IMPRISONMENT, DID CAUSE HIM TO HAVE SOME BOND WITH CHALVRON. CHALVRON AGAIN SAID "IF THERE IS SUCH A BOND, THEN WHY SUCH A LATE MEETING, AND I AM NOT A COMMUNIST."

12. I NOTED HONECKER AND SINDERMANN'S REFERENCE TO THE CONSULAR CONVENTION, SAYING THAT WHILE HE US HAD CONFIDENTIAL

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INFORMED THE GDR ON MANY OCCASIONS THAT IT WOULD NOT REcede FROM ITS OPPOSITION TO THE INCLUSION OF A NATIONALIST DEFINITION, GDR OFFICIALS INSISTED UPON RAISING THE ISSUE. AS I HAVE NOTED CHALVRON RESPONDED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD HONECKER'S REFERENCE TO THE INFLUENCE OF FRG AND "ALLIES" BUT FRANCE WOULD NOT REcede FROM ITS POSITION.

13. I ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE RECENT VISIT OF FISCHER TO FRANCE AND THE UPCOMING VISIT OF SAUVARNARGUS TO THE GDR SEEMED TO INDICATE AN EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE GDR TO IMPROVE OR TO ATTRACT FRENCH SUPPORT. CHALVRON SAID THAT TALKS HAD BEEN HELD UPON THE PROPOSED VISIT OF SAUVARNARGUS TO THE GDR BUT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE OUTCOME WOULD BE AS SAUVARNARGUS WOULD CERTAINLY VISIT WEST BERLIN BEFORE COMING TO EAST BERLIN FOR TALKS.

14. CHALVRON ENDED BY SAYING THAT THE TALKS HAD BEEN CONDUCTED IN A WARM AND FRIENDLY WAY, BUT HE STILL COULD NOT UNDERSTAND THE LATENESS OF THE TALKS AND WHAT MEANING THEY HAD FOR HIS COUNTRY. BOTH GAUS AND I SUGGESTED THAT AS MARCHAIS APPARENTLY DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENTER A COALITION GOVERNMENT, HONECKER HAD DEROGATED HIM, AND WAS SENDING A PLACATORY MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT D'ESTAING. CHALVRON AGREED THAT THAT WAS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY. MISS PESTELL OF GREAT BRITAIN ONLY INTERVENED ONCE TO ASK IF GDR OFFICIALS HAD MADE DEPRACATORY REMARKS ABOUT MARCHAIS IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS. CHALVRON RESPONDED "NO". HE AGAIN EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE US-FRG-

GREAT BRITAIN-FRENCH GOOD RELATIONSHIP  
IN BERLIN.  
COOPER

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